



Paralyzed Man

Luke 5:17-26

Review

- Who can tell us about Nicodemus and his encounter with Jesus?
- What have you noticed about Jesus in the 2 stories we have told?
- What has happened when you have told our stories to someone?

Hook Question

Assign each person a disability (blind, deaf, broken leg, disease, mentally disabled, etc) and have someone in the group share/act out how they could best help that person.

Tell the Story

Retell

Have the group retell the story in their own words. Work together to recreate what was just heard asking 'what's next' questions.

Personal/Group Retell

Art Attack! Have each person draw a different part of the story and then put it together in order.

Introduction

Jesus responded to people when they trusted him and believed that he was the Son of God. He saw their faith for God to be their healer; Jesus had the power and the desire to heal them. But he didn't only heal their bodies from sickness and disabilities. Today's Bible story will show us other things that Jesus can restore...

One day while Jesus was teaching, religious leaders from many places were sitting nearby. The Lord's healing power was strongly with Jesus.

Some men carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat came to see Jesus. They tried to take him inside, but the crowd was too large. They went up to the roof and took off some tiles and lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven."

But the religious leaders said to themselves, "Who does he think he is? Only God can forgive sins!"

Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

Immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. Everyone was filled with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, "We have seen amazing things today!"

Discussion Questions

Listed below are some basic questions that can be asked. You may want to supplement these questions with other Head, Heart, and Hands questions.

- What were the main events in the story?
- What do you think was going on in the paralyzed man's heart and mind in this story?
- How would you have felt if you were the paralyzed man? The religious leaders?
- What can we learn about from the paralyzed man and/or his friends?
- After hearing the story, how will you live differently?

Story Continued...

Closing Blessing

Read Galatians 6:2

Pray May we all be blessed with the gift of help so we can encourage and carry each other's burdens. Lord, help us to be an instrument of your love and grace so we can bring each other into your presence where we can find healing and rest.